RAILROADING

Pre-Visit Activity

Riding the Rails Activity

Scavenger Hunt

Setting Classroom

Duration 45-60 minutes

Subject Areas Language Arts, Social Studies **Skills**

Investigation, Organization

Grade Level 4-5

Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- 1. identify events in the history of the railroad
- 2. complete a timeline of railroad events
- 3. discover tourism sites related to railroading

WV-IGOs:

Language Arts - 4.7, 4.20, 4.85 Social Studies - 4.44, 4.25, 5.44, 5.16

VOCABULARY

None

MATERIALS

- 1. pencil
- 2. "Riding the Rails" pamphlet
- 3. Riding the Rails Worksheet

BACKGROUND

Exploration, settlement, and industrialization of the Mountain State has been determined by its geographic barriers. Attempts by the citizens of West Virginia to overcome these physical barriers have created many challenges. Early settlements developed along navigable riverways or at natural breaks in the mountains. Travel through and across the mountains was slow and arduous, making communication with the outside and development of industry difficult. Much of West Virginia's interior remained remote until the advent of the railroad in the late 1800s. To reach West Virginia's rich natural resources, railroads had to be built.

PROCEDURES

- 1. Divide the class into groups of 4 or 5 and give each group a "Riding the Rails" pamphlet.
- 2. Discuss the different parts of the pamphlet and how it is organized.
- 3. Explain that each group will be given a Riding the Rails Worksheet with information from the pamphlet to locate. Give the students time to complete the worksheet.





PROCEDURES Continued

4. Discuss the answers to the worksheet and the "Riding the Rails" pamphlet. Allow each group time to view and discuss the railroad tourism sites section of the pamphlet.

EVALUATION

See that each group finishes the activity before discussing the answers.

EXTENSION

- 1. Each student can choose a topic from the pamphlet to research and write a report.
- 2. The class can choose a railroading site and plan a field trip.



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Riding the Rails Worksheet

Directions

Using the "Riding the Rails" pamphlet, locate the answers as indicated below.

1.	List two barriers that the railroad had to overcome.
	a
	b
2.	What was the period after the Civil War called?
3.	Name three important railway lines built through West Virginia and completed in 1852, 1873, and 1892, respectively.
	a
	b
	c
4.	What route did the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway follow through West Virginia?
5.	List two ways that the railroad helped to develop the state's industrialization.
	a
	b
6.	The Chesapeake and Ohio Railway connected what cities?
7.	What was the main goal for the construction of the railroad lines?
8.	What town in New River Gorge National River has a restored railroad depot that serves as a visitor center with historical displays?
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Riding the Rails Answer Key



- 1. a. mountains
 - b. rivers
- 2. West Virginia's railroad era
- 3. a. Baltimore and Ohio
 - b. Chesapeake and Ohio
 - c. Norfolk and Western
- 4. entered the state east of White Sulphur Springs, traveled through the canyon of the New River, followed the Kanawha River, then cut across to Huntington and the Ohio River
- 5. a. developed routes to access West Virginia's natural resources
 - b. hauled these valuable resources out to U. S. markets
- 6. Richmond, Virginia, and Huntington, West Virginia
- 7. to recover West Virginia's rich natural resources
- 8. Thurmond, West Virginia

